(c) and (d) The Review Committee submitted its Report to the Government in April, 2007. The Committee has, inter-alia, recommended that the National Council for Teacher *Education Act, 1993 be repealed.*

Entry of foreign law firms

1376. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed the entry of foreign law firms into the Indian legal services sector, to practise foreign law;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is in response to India's Commitment to liberalise service sector, as promised under WTO;

(d) if so, to what extent Government is ready to bring liberalization and allow foreign firms to practise in India into legal profession; and

(e) whether Indian legal community has raised any objection in this regard, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir;

(b) Does not arise;

(c) No, Sir;

(d) Does not arise;

(e) Yes, Sir. The Government has invited the views of all stakeholders in the matter, including objections, if any.

Setting up of high courts benches

†1377. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of high court benches functioning in the States, at present;

(b) the norms followed to set up a bench or a special bench;

(c) the States where movement for setting up of such benches is going on;

(d) whether Government has received any report of such movement from Orissa;

(e) whether the State Chief Minister has submitted any letter to the Central Government in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details of steps being taken by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) There are 14 Permanent Benches functioning at present in the jurisdiction of 6 High Courts.

(b) The Jaswant Singh Commission in this report suggested the broad principles and criteria to be followed while deciding the question of expediency and desirability of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi